



For Immediate Release
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Vermont Unemployment Rate Increases to 2.9 percent in September

The Vermont Department of Labor announced today that the seasonally-adjusted statewide unemployment rate for September was 2.9 percent. This reflects an increase of one-tenth of one percentage point from the revised August rate. The national rate in September was 3.7 percent. As of the prior month’s preliminary data, the Burlington-South Burlington Metropolitan NECTA was tied for the twenty-first lowest unemployment rate in the country for all metropolitan areas. Overall, Vermont’s unemployment rate was tied for fifth lowest in the country for the same time period.

Commissioner’s Message

“The topline numbers in September show a decline in employment as reported by Vermont businesses and Vermont households with the most noticeable over-the-year decline found in the leisure and hospitality sector. While many tourism-based employers are reporting difficulty filling open positions, unfilled positions could account for some of the reported decline. The Department is waiting to assess whether the reported decline holds or is adjusted with more data. We know that year-to-year differences can influence the historically calculated seasonal-adjustment factors. On a positive note, employers continue to report wage growth, a reflection of historically low unemployment and increased competition for labor. The Department is available to assist Vermont employers and job-seekers alike. Please contact any one of the Department’s twelve local offices to learn more,” said Labor Commissioner Lindsay Kurrle.

Chart 1. Unemployment Rate, seasonally adjusted

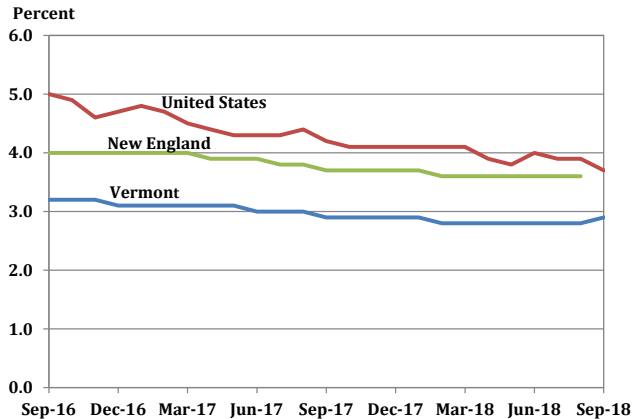
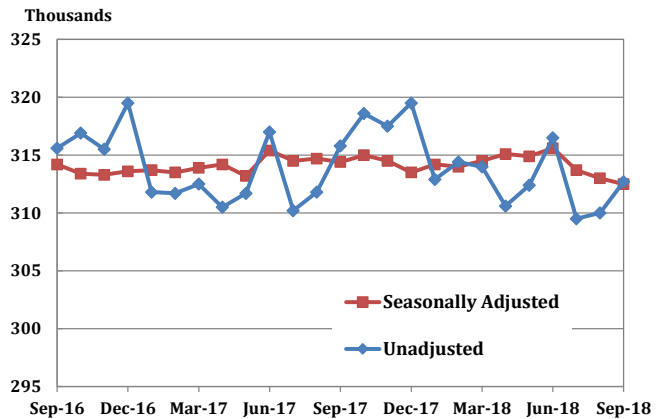


Chart 2. Vermont Nonfarm Payroll Employment



State of Vermont Overview

The Vermont seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate increased in September to a level of 2.9 percent. The comparable United States rate in September was 3.7 percent, which reflects a decrease of two-tenths of one percentage point from the revised August estimate. The seasonally-adjusted Vermont data for September show the Vermont civilian labor force decreased by 1,057 from the prior month's revised estimate. The number of employed persons decreased by 1,062 and the number of unemployed persons increased by 5. Changes in the labor force and employment were statistically significant in the seasonally-adjusted series.

The September unemployment rates for Vermont's 17 labor market areas ranged from 2.3 percent in White River Junction to 4.5 percent in Derby (note: local labor market area unemployment rates are not seasonally-adjusted). For comparison, the September unadjusted unemployment rate for Vermont was 2.8 percent which reflects no change from the revised unadjusted August level and a decrease of one-tenth of one percentage point from a year ago.

Analysis of Job Changes by Industry

Not-Seasonally-Adjusted

The preliminary 'not-seasonally-adjusted' jobs estimates for September show an increase of 2,700 jobs when compared to the revised August numbers. There was an increase of 300 jobs between the preliminary and the revised August estimates due to the inclusion of more data. The monthly increase seen in the September numbers was primarily attributable to seasonal activity related to education. The broader economic trends can be detected by focusing on the over-the-year changes in this data series. As detailed in the preliminary 'not-seasonally-adjusted' September data, Total Private industries have decreased by 2,400 jobs (-0.9 percent) and Government (including public education) employment has decreased by 700 jobs (-1.2 percent) in the past year.

Seasonally-Adjusted

The seasonally-adjusted data for September reports a decrease of 500 jobs from the revised August data. As with the 'not-seasonally-adjusted' data, this over-the-month change is from the revised August numbers which experienced an increase of 100 jobs from the preliminary estimates. The seasonally-adjusted over-the-month changes in September were mixed at the sector level. Those with a notable increase include: Administrative & Waste (+200 jobs or +1.7%), Federal Government (+100 jobs or +1.4%), and Finance & Insurance (+100 jobs or +1.1%). Sectors with a notable decrease include: Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-300 jobs or -5.9%), Real Estate, Rental & Leasing (-100 jobs or -3.1%), and Information (-100 jobs or -2.4%).

The Unemployment and Jobs Report for October is scheduled to be released on Friday, November 16, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

Table 1. Vermont Labor Force Estimates, seasonally adjusted

	September 2018	August 2018	September 2017	Change From:	
				August 2018	September 2017
Civilian Labor Force	347,135	348,192	344,932	-1,057	2,203
Employed	337,235	338,297	334,790	-1,062	2,445
Unemployed	9,900	9,895	10,142	5	-242
Unemployment Rate (%)	2.9	2.8	2.9	0.1	0.0

Vermont's labor force, employment and unemployment statistics are produced from a combination of a Statewide survey of households and statistical modeling. The data are produced by the Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program (LAUS), a cooperative program with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov/lau) and the Vermont Department of Labor (www.vtlni.info/labforce).

Table 2. Vermont Labor Market Areas, Labor Force Estimates
not seasonally adjusted

Labor Market Area ¹	Civilian Labor Force	September 2018		Unemployment Rate ² (%)		
		Employed	Unemployed	Sep-18	Aug-18	Sep-17
Vermont Total	342,793	333,229	9,564	2.8	2.8	2.9
Barre-Montpelier	25,874	25,214	660	2.6	2.5	2.7
Bennington	11,171	10,775	396	3.5	3.6	4.2
Brattleboro	21,574	20,904	670	3.1	3.1	3.2
Burlington-South Burlington	124,647	121,606	3,041	2.4	2.5	2.5
Derby	12,640	12,070	570	4.5	4.0	4.1
Highgate	9,987	9,712	275	2.8	3.1	2.9
Manchester	11,376	11,023	353	3.1	2.9	3.3
Middlebury	18,474	17,929	545	3.0	3.1	2.9
Morristown-Waterbury	17,928	17,393	535	3.0	3.0	3.2
Newbury	2,820	2,748	72	2.6	2.5	2.9
Northfield-Waitsfield	6,745	6,546	199	3.0	2.9	2.9
Randolph	7,291	7,076	215	2.9	3.0	2.9
Rutland	21,216	20,546	670	3.2	3.1	3.3
Springfield	10,643	10,344	299	2.8	2.8	3.0
St. Johnsbury	13,494	13,097	397	2.9	3.2	3.3
White River Junction	20,065	19,612	453	2.3	2.2	2.3
Woodstock	3,780	3,668	112	3.0	3.0	3.2

¹The area names above are common language titles; for official names of areas including encompassing cities and towns please refer to the Vermont Labor Market Area map (<http://www.vtlni.info/lmadef2015.pdf>).

²Rate is estimate for number of unemployed divided by total labor force, expressed as a percent.

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program (LAUS) produced by the Vermont Department of Labor (www.vtlni.info/labforce.cfm) in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov/lau).

Table 3. Vermont Nonfarm Payroll Employment, seasonally adjusted (thousands)

NAICS Industry	Sep-18	Aug-18	Sep-17	Change From:		% Change From:	
	Prelim	Revised	Revised	Aug-18	Sep-17	Aug-18	Sep-17
Statewide, Total Nonfarm	312.5	313.0	314.4	-0.5	-1.9	-0.2	-0.6
Total Private	257.0	257.6	258.6	-0.6	-1.6	-0.2	-0.6
Mining, Logging and Construction	16.2	16.1	15.9	0.1	0.3	0.6	1.9
Mining & Logging	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-12.5
Construction	15.5	15.4	15.1	0.1	0.4	0.6	2.6
Manufacturing	29.2	29.3	29.5	-0.1	-0.3	-0.3	-1.0
Durable Goods	18.2	18.4	18.2	-0.2	0.0	-1.1	0.0
Non-Durable Goods	11.0	10.9	11.3	0.1	-0.3	0.9	-2.7
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	54.0	54.2	55.0	-0.2	-1.0	-0.4	-1.8
Wholesale Trade	9.2	9.3	9.3	-0.1	-0.1	-1.1	-1.1
Retail Trade	36.8	36.9	37.8	-0.1	-1.0	-0.3	-2.6
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	8.0	8.0	7.9	0.0	0.1	0.0	1.3
Information ¹	4.1	4.2	4.4	-0.1	-0.3	-2.4	-6.8
Financial Activities	12.5	12.5	11.9	0.0	0.6	0.0	5.0
Finance & Insurance	9.4	9.3	9.0	0.1	0.4	1.1	4.4
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	3.1	3.2	2.9	-0.1	0.2	-3.1	6.9
Professional and Business Services	28.5	28.4	28.3	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.7
Professional & Technical Services	14.3	14.5	14.5	-0.2	-0.2	-1.4	-1.4
Administrative & Waste Services	12.1	11.9	11.8	0.2	0.3	1.7	2.5
Education and Health Services	66.1	65.7	65.9	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.3
Private Educational Services	13.5	13.5	13.4	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.7
Health Care & Social Assistance	52.6	52.2	52.5	0.4	0.1	0.8	0.2
Leisure and Hospitality	36.3	37.0	37.6	-0.7	-1.3	-1.9	-3.5
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	4.8	5.1	4.5	-0.3	0.3	-5.9	6.7
Accommodation & Food Services	31.5	31.9	33.1	-0.4	-1.6	-1.3	-4.8
Other Services	10.1	10.2	10.1	-0.1	0.0	-1.0	0.0
Government	55.5	55.4	55.8	0.1	-0.3	0.2	-0.5
Federal	7.1	7.0	6.9	0.1	0.2	1.4	2.9
State	18.6	18.7	19.0	-0.1	-0.4	-0.5	-2.1
Local	29.8	29.7	29.9	0.1	-0.1	0.3	-0.3
Burlington-S. Burlington Metro (NECTA)	124.1	123.6	125.3	0.5	-1.2	0.4	-1.0
Total Nonfarm	124.1	123.6	125.3	0.5	-1.2	0.4	-1.0

¹This is a new seasonally adjusted series as of January 2018.

With the release of January 2018 data on March 12, 2018, the Current Employment Statistics (CES) State and Area program will convert to concurrent seasonal adjustment. <https://www.bls.gov/sae/saeconcurrent.htm>

Source: Current Employment Statistics Program (CES) produced by the Economic and Labor Market Information Division, Vermont Department of Labor (www.vtmi.info/ces.cfm) in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov/sae).

Estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. See Annual Summary for details.

Table 4. Vermont Nonfarm Payroll Employment, not seasonally adjusted

NAICS Industry	Sep-18	Aug-18	Sep-17	Change From:		% Change From:	
	Prelim	Revised	Revised	Aug-18	Sep-17	Aug-18	Sep-17
TOTAL NONFARM	312,700	310,000	315,800	2,700	-3,100	0.9	-1.0
TOTAL PRIVATE	256,600	261,800	259,000	-5,200	-2,400	-2.0	-0.9
GOODS-PRODUCING	47,000	47,500	46,500	-500	500	-1.1	1.1
MINING, LOGGING AND CONSTRUCTION	17,500	17,800	17,100	-300	400	-1.7	2.3
Mining & Logging	800	800	800	0	0	0.0	0.0
Construction	16,700	17,000	16,300	-300	400	-1.8	2.5
MANUFACTURING	29,500	29,700	29,400	-200	100	-0.7	0.3
Durable Goods	18,400	18,600	18,100	-200	300	-1.1	1.7
Non-Durable Goods	11,100	11,100	11,300	0	-200	0.0	-1.8
Food Mfg.	5,400	5,400	5,300	0	100	0.0	1.9
SERVICE-PROVIDING	265,700	262,500	269,300	3,200	-3,600	1.2	-1.3
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES	53,500	54,300	54,700	-800	-1,200	-1.5	-2.2
Wholesale Trade	9,100	9,200	9,300	-100	-200	-1.1	-2.2
Retail Trade	36,400	37,200	37,400	-800	-1,000	-2.2	-2.7
Food & Beverage Stores	9,700	10,000	9,700	-300	0	-3.0	0.0
General Merchandise Stores	3,300	3,400	3,400	-100	-100	-2.9	-2.9
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	8,000	7,900	8,000	100	0	1.3	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	6,800	6,700	6,800	100	0	1.5	0.0
Utilities	1,200	1,200	1,200	0	0	0.0	0.0
INFORMATION	4,100	4,200	4,400	-100	-300	-2.4	-6.8
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	12,600	12,600	12,000	0	600	0.0	5.0
Finance & Insurance	9,400	9,300	9,000	100	400	1.1	4.4
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	3,200	3,300	3,000	-100	200	-3.0	6.7
PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES	28,900	29,200	28,800	-300	100	-1.0	0.3
Professional & Technical Services	14,300	14,700	14,400	-400	-100	-2.7	-0.7
Administrative & Waste Services	12,700	12,500	12,400	200	300	1.6	2.4
EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICES	65,600	65,200	65,500	400	100	0.6	0.2
Educational Services	13,300	12,600	13,200	700	100	5.6	0.8
Colleges and Universities	8,400	8,000	8,300	400	100	5.0	1.2
Health Care & Social Assistance	52,300	52,600	52,300	-300	0	-0.6	0.0
Ambulatory Health Care Services	17,500	17,800	17,400	-300	100	-1.7	0.6
Hospitals	14,400	14,400	14,400	0	0	0.0	0.0
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	7,400	7,500	7,400	-100	0	-1.3	0.0
Social Assistance	13,000	12,900	13,100	100	-100	0.8	-0.8
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	34,900	38,600	36,900	-3,700	-2,000	-9.6	-5.4
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	4,900	6,000	5,000	-1,100	-100	-18.3	-2.0
Accommodation & Food Services	30,000	32,600	31,900	-2,600	-1,900	-8.0	-6.0
Accommodation	9,500	10,900	10,800	-1,400	-1,300	-12.8	-12.0
Hotels & Motels	8,000	8,800	9,500	-800	-1,500	-9.1	-15.8
Food Services & Drinking Places	20,500	21,700	21,100	-1,200	-600	-5.5	-2.8
OTHER SERVICES	10,000	10,200	10,200	-200	-200	-2.0	-2.0
GOVERNMENT	56,100	48,200	56,800	7,900	-700	16.4	-1.2
Federal Government	7,100	7,000	6,900	100	200	1.4	2.9
State Government Education	9,200	6,900	10,200	2,300	-1,000	33.3	-9.8
Other State Government	9,800	10,000	9,800	-200	0	-2.0	0.0
Local Government Education	22,200	15,700	22,300	6,500	-100	41.4	-0.4
Other Local Government	7,800	8,600	7,600	-800	200	-9.3	2.6

Source: Current Employment Statistics Program (CES) produced by the Economic and Labor Market Information Division, Vermont Department of Labor (www.vtلمي.info/ces.cfm) in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov/sae).

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